

## Abstract

Until now visual extrapolations of a, for example critical,  
measurement value pattern and/or subjective evaluations of the  
5 impact on technical parameters were undertaken for the purposes of  
trend analysis, in order to estimate the operational dependability  
of a machine.

Optimal adjustment of the extrapolation function in respect of the  
10 database is effected according to the invention not by means of a  
maximum correlation coefficient  $r$  but using a measure of quality  
( $K$ ), which is independent of the gradient of an adjustment curve in  
respect of a database.

15 (Fig. 2)